

Quid Novi

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McGill University Faculty of Law
Faculté de droit de l'Université McGill

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le 2 mars 1998

A Comment On Law-Student Diversity

AZIM HUSSAIN
BCL II

I would like to pursue one of the points raised by Dyanoosh Youssefi in "Opening Discussions on Education Equity" (Quid Feb. 16). She talked about the lack of cultural diversity in this Faculty. It is true that our faculty is far less diverse than Engineering, Medicine, Science, or Management. One of the major reasons for this, I think, is that visible-minority children are not channeled into legal studies by their parents and their communities. There are many rational and pragmatic reasons for this.

Firstly, visible-minority parents tend to be people who immigrated to Canada as professionals educated in the national

sciences. They came in the late '60s and '70s when Canada had an acute shortage of skilled labour in technological areas. Since this is the area that they are most familiar with and comfortable in, they will encourage their children to pursue the same fields. Conversely, they will discourage their children to think about pursuing careers in the humanities or social sciences, as it is foreign to them.

Secondly, given these differing levels of comfort and knowledge, parents are going to want to supervise their children's education up till the university level. Not only will they be able to help their children in the sciences, they will be able to spot any hint of unfairness in marking by teachers.

Last page

Top Ten Ways I furthered My Legal Education During The Break

BY STEVEN LEITMAN

NAT IV AND OLYMPIC BRONZE MEDALLIST WITH A HAND BY HOWARD LIEBMAN

- 10) Scoured the ski slopes looking for law.
- 9) Discovered hundreds of ways to be unreasonable.
- 8) Spent 10 days forgetting the stuff I've learned.
- 7) Tried to figure the meaning of "Honeste vivere, alterum non laedere, suum cuique tribuere." (the quote from the wall in the Moot Court). It means "honest people do not overthrow their leaders, but they do sue cucumbers in court."
- 6) Drafted a new standard form contract for Satan, in confor-

- mity with the 1994 CCQ.
- 5) Gave myself a good long hug.
- 4) Went to court to get an injunction to have February 29th added to 1998.
- 3) Studied the way Luke Skywalker turned Darth Vader from the dark side of the force.
- 2) I finished all my readings and made summaries.
- 1) 1 word: re-oxygenate.

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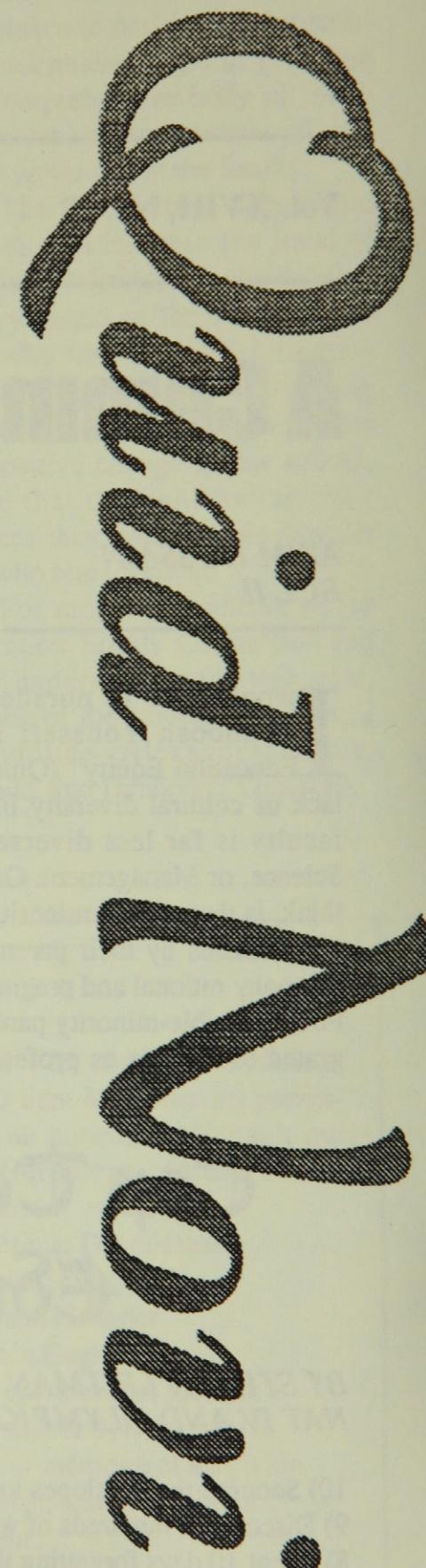
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Announcements

MMACC/CCAMM: Next conference: 4 mars 1998. Mc Pierre Brun, Grondin, Poudrier. "La médiation et l'arbitrage dans les relations de travail." 12:30 p.m., Moot Court.

Placement office luncheon series: "Women in the Legal Profession." Sponsored by Stikeman Elliott. March 4, 12:30, room T.B.A.

Les ateliers de droit civil: "En mariage, trompe qui peut" by Alain-François Bisson from University of Ottawa. March 5, 16:00, 3647 Peel, room 101.



Quid Novi
3661 Peel Street, Suite 15
Montreal, Quebec H3A 1X1
Canada
Tel: (514) 398-4430
Fax: (514) 398-8197
e-mail: quid@lsa.lan.mcgill.ca
web: <http://www.law.mcgill.ca/quid>

Editor-in-Chief *Davide Pisanu*
Assistant Editor (English) *Daniel Westreich*
Assistant Editors (French) *Kristèle Younès*
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Written contributions must be submitted in electronic form, in either Microsoft Word 6 or less or WordPerfect 6 or less. Disks or artwork can be left in the Quid Novi box in the LSA office or at the Quid Novi office. Written contributions can also be sent by e-mail. Deadline is each Wednesday at 12:00.

Law Bookstore: Where Do You Stand?

This time, it's getting personal -

PATRICK CORMIER
BCL I

What's happening with our bookstore? Is it dying? Are we back to the McTavish bookstore next September? Anyway, why should we care? Apparently it's all going to *Chapters* next year, so I hear some people saying.

Well, keep on reading if you care about books, that is, *law books and casebooks*, those very same which stare at you every night or so. We may dislike them (I'm being kind), or we may even hate them sometimes (I'm being realistic), but when well-written and affordable, they make quite a difference to our academic survival. We might even enjoy them (apologies if this sounds heretical). But after a little over fifteen years in existence, our law faculty bookstore as we have known it is about to die. Whether something new and better comes out of it, or whether we toss its ashes from the top of the new library building, depends on us. Again, why should we care?

There are a lot of reasons, some of them tangible, some of them not quite so. As I will try to show you, it depends a lot on what we want our bookstore to be. But as a minimum, it is reasonable to expect the following advantages from a student-run faculty bookstore: if operated as a co-operative without anybody being paid a salary, costs and overhead are drastically cut and books are sold at a better price; and the integration between

the inventory at the bookstore and the courses offered at the faculty can be maximized (as opposed to a large bookstore for the whole university). But there are a lot of other potential advantages.

It depends on what we want our bookstore to be. Haven't you wondered why we pay anywhere from \$60 to \$115 for casebooks which are photocopied stuff? I don't know about you, but in my case, if I have to pay that kind of money, I would rather buy a well-written, hard-cover law treatise that I can keep for the years to come. Some of us have heard that we pay that much because of "copyright". Then why is it different in other universities? I believe that in some other provinces students pay the price of the paper only, there are no "copyright" fees. And why are the casebooks of some other universities in Montreal a lot cheaper, *and bound*? I love this - I would not be surprised to find out that only in our law faculty can you pay over \$100 for something that is not even bound. Do you know if we can do better, as a student body?

This is why I am writing this article. I want to toss out a few ideas and see if the motivation is out there to take up the challenge and make this work. I am absolutely convinced, after speaking with a few people involved in the management of the bookstore, that *operating a well-run bookstore for our faculty is beyond the power of one individual*. So I am sharing ideas with you. To see if the interest is there - and if you have read this far, keep on reading, you may want in the end to be part of the team.

Otherwise, if we fail to put together a good proposal to the faculty backed up by a good team of motivated students, believe me - we'll be at McTavish bookstore next September, rain or shine, waiting for hours just to get in... never mind waiting again to pay at the cash!

The bookstore has changed a lot over the last fifteen years. It started around 1981 and was based on a co-op model, with around twenty motivated volunteers. During recent years a trend developed whereby the number of motivated and dedicated people steadily decreased, to the point where a decision was made to have one position at the bookstore being paid for (the salary was paid from the budget of the main bookstore). The trend pursued its course to the point that (almost) one single person was responsible for the real management and planning of the operations of the bookstore, with a few volunteers to help at the cash early during the semester. This trend, well beyond the responsibility of any single individual, has led to the recent "crisis" and left us with hard choices to make. But the choice need not be hard, if we change our vision of what the bookstore could be to us.

As a minimum, the bookstore should be able to provide the right books at the right time and at the right price. What does this entail?

First, an efficient way to organize information. Information, especially in an inventory-based organization (such

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Law Bookstore: Where Do You Stand?

CONT'D FROM PAGE 3

as a bookstore), is the key to enable proactive planning, smooth operation, and in our case, happy students - whether on the volunteer side or client side - and happy professors. Arguably, the best way to organize information without risk of errors or duplication is with a relational database. Relational database techniques have evolved in recent years to the point where they are available on PC platform in powerful single-user packages. After the information is adequately structured in the database (for those interested in the technical aspects, this step involves normalizing data to the relational model in five normal forms - does this sound better than law?!?) within tables linked to each other (e.g. Professors, Courses, Sections, Publishers, Inventory, Course Items, Orders, etc.), it is easy to create queries and reports depending on the tasks performed by the people working in the bookstore. Each person is given just the necessary privileges in order to perform his or her work, without the possibility of accidentally deleting other information. After the database is structured (tables, queries, reports and security aspects), *it must be documented*. Only when the designer can completely step back and a new group can take over using the documentation is success achieved... with regards to how information is organized.

Second, the bookstore needs to be tightly integrated with the Faculty. As early as possible in the annual academic planning cycle, when the Faculty reviews which courses are offered by which professors, a bookstore team representative should be there to bring back the information. The bookstore team can then *actively* ensure that each section is accounted for in terms of course item requirements, and that these items have been ordered, *rather than waiting for the*

order forms. Tighter integration with the Faculty would also allow the bookstore to submit "bookstore policies" and have them approved by the Faculty. For example, most editors will allow the return and reimbursement of excess books - but this is not the case for casebooks. If we order too many casebooks, the bookstore is quickly left with a potentially considerable loss. Would the faculty accept that the bookstore order less casebooks, in exchange for a 24-48 hour delay if more casebooks are needed? While this is only one example, there are plenty of others.

Third, the bookstore must both be accountable and responsible. Right now, the inventory control measures are not sufficient to link sales with inventory control. Why does this matter? If the bookstore is both responsible and accountable for its operations, and if it does take the necessary inventory control measures, *prices can be kept as low as possible*. The other reason for this requirement is psychological: you can't make someone realistically *responsible* for something if he or she is not *accountable* (I skip the nice management arguments, I'm talking real life). In other words, if the mission of the bookstore is *to provide the right books at the right time and at the right price*, the bookstore needs to control its budget and to be accountable for it. Of course, the Faculty should retain a somewhat active role in overseeing some aspects of the bookstore, e.g. only the Associate Dean (Academic) could authorize writing-off inventory items and/or expenditures of items other than books. Alternatively, the bookstore could be accountable to the student body itself through the LSA.

These are just three ideas to enable the bookstore to fulfil its basic mission. Once we would be getting the basics right, then the fun and interesting stuff could be undertaken. Here are a few ideas: to re-locate the bookstore to an area where people can browse through books as in a real library (I heard that this is happening next year - that is, *if we have a bookstore next year*); to find out exactly why casebooks are so expensive and if we, as a student body, can do something about it; to find out if it would be beneficial for us to join what is appar-

ently a provincial law faculties co-op; and, last but not least, *to find out more about law books themselves*. While this may look strange at first, I really believe that the bookstore team should look into keeping a steady supply of interesting law books (e.g. *To Be a Trial Lawyer*, by F. Lee Bailey) and non-law books (e.g. *How to Make Friends and Influence People*, by Dale Carnegie - a must before your interviews). It's about our education - we might as well participate!

Why is this getting personal? Because if you've read up to this point, if you have been interested, if you have ideas, and if you are coming back next year, I would really urge you to stop for a second and ask yourself if you would like to be part of a team and to have fun making this work. The people volunteering at the cash early in the semester typically do a great job, they are much needed, and they will always be needed, but I am asking you for a different type of volunteering. There is no salary for anyone. I need a core team of motivated and dedicated people, which will stay in Montreal over the summer and have some time to spare for this. Why? Because I strongly believe that in a business like this, 90% of the work is planning and preparation - which must be completed *before* classes start in September. And if enough people contact me over the next week (don't procrastinate if you're interested!), we can work together to prepare a proposal to the Faculty. The Faculty can then make an informed decision. Otherwise, we save them some work. They will have no choice but to close the bookstore.



We need a career development coordinator with a legal background

VICTOR CONSTANTINESCU
BCL I

We learn quickly as adults that apathy towards governance leaves us little excuse to complain when the outcomes are not palatable. I am the first to admit that I fall squarely in this latter category — particularly with respect to the proposed fee levy for a Career Development Coordinator (CDC). I was somewhat surprised to see that the Ad-Hoc Committee's Report was published a mere two days prior to the referendum (February 16th) — with some troubling provisions.

I am particularly troubled by the recommendation that the candidate should only "ideally" be familiar with the legal profession. Why is this not a stringent requirement? It is difficult to justify such a fee increase otherwise. It seems that the major reason for hiring such an individual is for his or her thorough knowledge of the profession — including the marketplace, provincial bar requirements, the firms, interviewing and resume expectations, etc. If the candidate merely has a human resources background, then why hire that individual? Why not use the services offered by the McGill Career Centre? In a hop and a skip over to Powell Student Services across the street, one can request many of

the services that we are looking for and for which we have already paid.

Moreover, if the candidate does not possess a knowledge of the "legal marketplace," could such money then not be better used through the creation of several work-study positions? Students are certainly acquainted with the marketplace and have certainly already demonstrated their resourcefulness in expanding the activities of the career office. The incentive of remuneration should only increase the quality of the product.

Frankly, I think the idea of a CDC is a good one. But justifying a fee increase demands in return someone with experience and who will not spend the first year of employment merely learning the profession.

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I Am The President

SOULETTE GRAY
BCLII

I am not your lover
Look over your shoulder...
I am the president
To persuade you is my intent
I want your power
Do as I say: roll over!
And for it I will: argue, cajole, browbeat
As well as: buttonhole, plea, lobby and
offer many a treat
You know my charm; you know my
smile... I can be very beguile
A word to Congress: I will make it worth
your while
But first I will make you the public like
me
Then you will be unable
To clearly think, to clearly see
Therefore, to you I will seem more credi-

Your critical thinking ability I will alter
Yes I will do whatever it takes to prevent
a falter
You will mistake my scruffy behaviour
for charisma
When you are under the presidential spell
You will live the symptoms well
Of course, I will not do all this directly
Or you will feel insulted and resist
Instead, I will indirectly insist
You get the gist...
Yes the peripheral route of persuasion
has more subtlety
Shows "more" decency
After all I am a gentleman
So it can't really hurt my image to "over-
plan"
In the process, you will be distracted and
charged with emotion
Full of patriotism and pride in your
nation
You will worship our flag and indirectly
me

As the symbol of "big brother democra-
cy" and a people who are free
The polls will sing my popularity
And eliminate from the masses any resid-
ual thinking clarity
As I sweep you with the tide
Of persuasion to my side
I am not your lover
Look over your shoulder...
I am the president
To persuade you is my intent
I want your power
I want you, at my will, to roll over
I want your approval
I will program you to not be "overly"
critical
In essence, it is your mind I require
It is your unchallenged approval I desire
It is your "people power" I will acquire
I want to suck the moral life out of you
And in the process turn your blood into
glue.

Fishergate

WHITE FISHER

Greetings and Happy New Years, sports fans! In keeping with the fine investigative journalism going on south of the 49th, I offer you some recent FAQs from my Olympics Web site (www.chokers.ca) concerning the contents of this space.

Q. Are you still writing that hockey column?
A. Yes.

Q. Are you waiting for the playoffs?
A. No.

Q. Will the column return soon?
A. Yes.

Q. Were you on exchange?
A. No.

Q. Do you believe in haircuts?
A. Yes.

Q. Are you going to get one?
A. No.

Q. You're not *really* graduating, are you?
A. Yes.

Q. Are you the one getting married?
A. No.

Q. Have you been to any games lately?
A. Yes.

Chix With Stix were defeated on Friday the 13th by a score of 3-1. Fine first goal of the season for Suzanne Davies, perfectly positioned to knock in the rebound. A-C Berube played exceptionally well with no chance on any of the goals

against.

Semper Tyrannis was victorious that same malevolent eve, also by a score of 3-1. Coincidence??? Nice one-timer by Tim Dunn on a Brent Olthuis pass from the corner. Two goals by Mike Spanier: an empty netter to sew things up, and at the end of a great right-wing rush. Excellent goaltending by Frobisher Bay's own Olivier Belfour.

Q. Can I get a Molson Dry?
A. No.

Q. Do you prefer steamies or toasties?
A. Yes.

Q. Is the Bookstore closed?
A. No.

Q. Is the Bookstore still open?
A. Yes.

Q. Are you the Top 10 guy?
A. No.

Q. If A & B are mortal enemies, B & C are passionate lovers, C & D are agnostics, and E is drunk and Irish, who gets to carve the roast beef?
A. F**k you.

Stay tuned, ye faithful, for further reports from your Man at McConnell. Line 'em up, Kenny, the boys're back in town.

- David White, Nat. IV.

Une activité

STÉPHANIE CARTIER NAT IV
BERNARD DUHAIME NAT IV
ANNICK PROVENCHER BCL III
CHRISTINE TREMBLAY BCL III

Un article du *Statut de la Cour internationale de justice* est devenu notre prière, notre mantra, notre cri de ralliement, notre pensée du jour, notre adage, notre devise, notre marque de commerce, notre espoir, notre rêve, notre hymne:

Art. 38 (1) La Cour [internationale de justice] dont la mission est de régler conformément au droit international les différends qui lui sont soumis, applique : (d) [...] la doctrine des publicistes les plus qualifiés des différentes nations, comme moyen auxiliaire de détermination des règles de droit.

En effet, nous sommes quatre (4) étudiants de la Faculté de droit de McGill qui allons témoigner directement, à titre de rédacteur/trices, de l'existence d'une revue de droit international au Québec, source doctrinale. En réalité, cette revue est gérée par des étudiants *des trois (3) facultés de droit montréalaises*, soit celle de l'Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), de l'Université de Montréal et de l'Université McGill. [Nous soulignons]

La Revue québécoise de droit international (RQDI) fut fondée en 1984 à l'Université de Montréal par le professeur Jacques-Yvan Morin. La RQDI a cessé ses parutions vers la fin des années 1980 à cause de problèmes financiers. En 1996, une équipe d'étudiants de l'UQAM a relevé le défi de poursuivre les publications de la Revue. Depuis 1997, la RQDI est gérée par une équipe pluri-universitaire dont nous faisons partie, répétons-le. Elle

interuniversitaire en droit international est née: *La Revue québécoise de droit international*

est supervisée par un Comité de direction également composé de professeurs de chacune des facultés de droit montréalaises, soit François Crépeau, directeur (UQAM), William Schabas (UQAM), René Provost (McGill) et Daniel Turp (Université de Montréal).

Le mandat de notre comité de rédaction consiste, pour l'année 1997-98, à créer les institutions qui régiront dorénavant toutes les activités de publication de la R.Q.D.I. Notre mandat requiert donc la mise en place d'un comité scientifique de lecture d'une vingtaine de juristes internationalistes, la rédaction d'un acte constitutif de la Revue incluant les descriptions des postes et des tâches, de même que l'élaboration d'une méthode efficace de correction des textes, de gestion des abonnements, etc. Sur le plan matériel, nous avons même imaginé une nouvelle maquette qui servira de support aux textes que nous avons reçus et sollicités, suivant des thèmes que nous avons définis. Pour relever tous ces défis, nous avons appris la langue et les us et coutumes des graphistes, des maisons d'édition, des services de publication, des auteurs, des abonnés, des services d'abonnement et même des logiciels de mise en page tels que QuarkXPress et PageMaker. Bref, nous batissons une revue juridique avec des outils diversifiés, ce qui requiert une imagination féconde, une tête de bouc, un moral à toute épreuve, un agenda du format d'un atlas et une bonne dose d'enthousiasme effréné! Actuellement, nous révisons également des textes et des notes infrapaginaires pour fin de publication des volumes en retard depuis le début des années 1990.

La tâche du prochain Comité de rédaction pour l'année 1998-99 consistera surtout à reprendre la production régulière de la R.Q.D.I., de la sollicitation de textes, à leur évaluation par le Comité de lecture à leur correction, mise en page, impression, distribution, facturation, rappel de facturation, deuxième rappel de factura-

tion. Sur le plan rédactionnel, elle consistera également à assurer la continuité des chroniques de pratique judiciaire, gouvernementale, parlementaire en droit international et d'inaugurer la chronique de recensions d'ouvrages que nous recevons à titre gracieux de nombreuses maisons d'édition: Bruylant, Dalloz, Seuil, Montchrestien, Presses de l'Université Laval, Wilson & Lafleur, entre autres. La nouvelle R.Q.D.I. devra coïncider avec la mise en oeuvre d'une stratégie de recherche de nouveaux abonnés et commanditaires qui lui permettra d'acquérir beaucoup plus de visibilité et d'autonomie financière.

Le défi demeure entier pour la prochaine année scolaire 1998-1999. Nous estimons avoir eu une chance inouïe de participer à un projet de la sorte. Nous produisons une revue de droit. Nous publions des textes. Nous discutons avec nos auteurs et nos abonnés. Nous disposons de toutes les ressources nécessaires pour réussir une telle entreprise. Ces phrases revêtent une signification profonde pour nous: celle de production de la doctrine en droit international. Nous vous encourageons donc fortement à soumettre votre candidature pour y prendre part. Nouez avec notre famille rqdiennne!

En tant que rédacteurs et rédactrices, nous apprenons à connaître et nous rencontrons à la fois des internationalistes des universités, de différents ministères, des bureaux d'avocats, des organisations internationales, régionales et des organisations non gouvernementales.

Nos tâches rédactionnelles nous ont amenés à errer si souvent, ça et là, dans la bibliothèque à la recherche de références plus ou moins précises. Nous connaissons si bien les numéros des rangées, la méthodologie 'Library of Congress (LC)', l'usure des planchers, les taches sur les murs, les numéros des cubicules, le nombre de livres par étagère au sixième étage à gauche, cinq rangées à partir de la sortie des escaliers... Nous

regrettions donc presque la construction de la nouvelle bibliothèque où il faudra recalculer tous nos repères des ouvrages de droit international, présents ou absents, de la présente bibliothèque! Nous sommes également des rats des bibliothèques virtuelles de plusieurs pays... ou plutôt de plusieurs universités américaines. En passant, l'équipe de la R.Q.D.I. tient à remercier mille fois John Kirkpatrick. Sans lui, la presse moscovite et la presse pékinoise de 1993 ne pourraient pas être retracées pour fin de vérification de notes infrapaginaires dans la R.Q.D.I.! Ces tâches rédactionnelles nous permettent également d'approfondir le contenu de plusieurs textes juridiques — traités, jurisprudence internationale, doctrine — qui rejoignent nos intérêts respectifs. En somme, la recherche systématique des références a su aiguiser notre esprit critique de l'argumentation des auteurs, notre rigueur intellectuelle dans notre propre argumentation et notre méthode de recherche.

Nous sommes à l'affût de l'actualité en droit international afin de nourrir la revue de nouvelles idées. Du fait de la Revue et de son caractère interuniversitaire, nous prenons également part à tous les événements reliés au droit international et qui se déroulent à Montréal: conférences, colloques, lancements d'ouvrage, etc.

Nous nous réjouissons aussi de la dynamique vivifiante de notre équipe composée de douze (12) personnes. Nous nous connaissons bien et nous nous estimons tous beaucoup. En tant que passionnés du droit international, du droit international public au droit international privé, du droit commercial international au droit international des droits de la personne, nous avons rapidement tissé des liens entre nous. Nous sommes aussi des passionnés de la réflexion, de l'écriture et de

Results from the Student Survey

**DEANNA MATZANKE, NAT IV
CHAIRPERSON, STUDENT
COMMITTEE, NEW LAW
LIBRARY COMPLEX**

Ed. note: The Quid jumped the gun last issue. We ran Part IV, before running Part III. We apologize for our haste. Here, for your statistical perusal, is the much-anticipated list of results to Question 3.

Note additionnelle du chargé de mise en pages : le temps nous manquant, nous n'avons pu effectuer sur les tableaux qui suivent le travail qui aurait permis de les rendre plus lisibles. Nous nous en excusons.

Question 3: Salles de classe/Classrooms

Agree/Disagree/No opinion/No answer

a) La priorité doit être accordée aux salles de classe au NCDH
76% /7%/11%/6%

b) Les salles de classe doivent être de différentes grandeurs
51% /9%/ 38%/ 2%

c) Le Moot Court doit être renouvelé afin d'offrir un éclairage, une acoustique et des sièges de meilleure qualité
88% /4%/ 7%/ 1%

d) Un amphithéâtre en plus du Moot Court serait désirable
32% /33%/ 34%/ 1%

e) De nouvelles salles pour la présentation de séminaires devraient être disponibles (comme par exemple le local 203)
63% /7%/ 30%/ 1%

f) Étant donné que les travaux présents donneront naissance à un atrium à côté du local 102, les salles 101 et 102

devraient devenir une seule et grande salle de classe.

11% / 53% / 33% / 3%

g) Les locaux 101 et 102 sont adéquats et n'exigent pas de changements significatifs

27% / 56% / 14% / 3%

h) Toutes les salles de cours devraient être munies d'un système audio-visuel

32% / 36% / 28% / 4%

i) Les salles de cours devraient avoir des tables et des sièges fixes et immobiles comme les salles 101 et 102.

21% / 55% / 18% / 6%

Comments:

This section of the report was meant to address the quantity and quality of the classrooms that are now available in NCDH and what kind of improvements or additions might be desirable and/or necessary in terms of renovations. It was, by far, the most commented on section, which gives me the impression that something serious needs to be done, as it concerns classroom space.

3(a) Most of you felt that the classroom situation is a definite priority. This underscores my above impression and my determination to make sure that a serious attempt is made to define the kinds of classroom spaces currently in use that are appropriate and useful and those that aren't. We further need to ascertain the kinds of spaces we are likely to need in the future and what kind of equipment should be an integral part of the classroom.

3(b) Not a huge majority on this question. My impression from the kinds of complaints that go around concerning the size of classes was that we definitely need a certain variety to accommodate the different kinds and sizes of classes in order to make the teaching of the class the most effective.

3(c) Well, this one was pretty much a given. I really just wanted some solid numbers on how many people are basically dissatisfied with the current Moot Court and particularly its use as a classroom. A serious overhaul is in order concerning light, ventilation and seats, not to mention making it accessible to everyone in the Faculty.

3(d) A very ambivalent answer on this one. From experience in arranging events where a lot of people are expected, the Moot Court has often shown itself to be rather inadequate. And what's more, even though it is called a moot court, it actually only gets used for that purpose maybe twice a year. Having another amphitheatre may change the nature of the use of Moot Court.

3(e) A good majority of you agree that smaller classrooms like Rm 203 should be available particularly for seminar courses. This will definitely be on the agenda.

3(f) Wow - this got a thumbs down. The reason for asking the question is that Rm 102 will essentially become windowless once the new atrium is built, a fact which makes it less desirable as a classroom. If rooms 101 and 102 were amalgamated, the windows from room 101 would light the room and it would function as a large amphitheatre for events. To be discussed.

3(g) Well, this answer was no surprise either. Once again, I was looking for solid numbers to support the suggestion that some serious changes need to be made to those fixed chairs and tables, not to mention the ventilation and acoustics.

3(h) A pretty ambivalent answer on this one, too. For those of you who have had to endure Professor Janda's daily set up routine, this question may have seemed a bit more cogent. A few of you noted that having equipment in every room is

on Renovations to NCDH - Part III

expensive. Very true, and in any case, audio-visual equipment will be installed based on predicted future needs and available money.

3(i) This question is closely related to (g) and will definitely be a subject of discussion and renovation. A number of you commented that you much preferred the chairs in rooms 200 and 201. (I agree). Some thought that the fixed tables were okay, but an overwhelming number of you requested movable chairs. Others thought that fixed chairs that swivel and/or adjust height would be nice. (Expensive!) Personally, I would like to see tables of different heights so that people can sit where it is most comfortable for them (and so that your position is

ergonomically correct). Someone also mentioned getting rid of the shelves in the tables so that they can't hide half rotten food - not a bad idea AND it would give more room for those of us with long legs. And a number of you mentioned that a little more space between the tables would be a good thing.

Lastly, many of you mentioned, once again, the ventilation, lighting and acoustics. Someone mentioned that the podium in room 101 should be in 102, too. The draft from the windows is also a concern. And those of you who fight the eternal fight in trying to find an electrical outlet for laptops - YES - there will be more of those, I assure you.

Thank- you!

Your comments on the survey have given the Student committee a lot of fodder to work out a student wish list which will be matched with the amount of space made available once the library moves. Look for a final survey that will offer several options on location and quality of space (in the same way as the Curriculum Committee formulated their survey) near the end of the semester.

www.law.mcgill.ca/clubs/libstgrp/newlibr/home.htm

**PROCHAINE TOMBÉE:
LE MERCREDI, 4 MARS 1998**

**NEXT DEADLINE:
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 1998**

More Than a Passport

DANIEL WESTREICH
NAT. IV

Riding the escalator down, he vaguely saw two women, two strollers, two first grade boys each hanging on to a leg. At the bottom he automatically turned the corner to wait at the platform. One of the women approached.

"S'il vous plaît, monsieur." An eastern European accent. She must be asking for directions. He waited to decipher what she wanted. He was sure he could tell her how to go where she wanted. He's often asked directions and he can point with the best of them.

She moved in quite close, revealing a foreigner's sense of personal space.

"S'il vous plaît, monsieur, je viens d'arrivée ici..."

His smile faded as she stuck out her hand. He noticed that her clothes, discount to begin with, were from the previous decade. He glanced at the other woman, noticed her black hair, her sneakers, her boy looking up at him, the baby kicking in the stroller. He glanced quickly at the other boy almost touching his leg. He backed up a step.

She looked deeply into his eyes. "J'ai rien ici, je viens d'arrivée, s'il vous plaît." Her open hand was almost under his chin. He forced a smile, backing up again.

"Désolé," he said, turning his back.

He walked quickly to the other end of the platform, images of the Rome train station flashing through his mind. It had been a while, but the anger still lingers. His pulse was fast. He pressed his hands against his pockets, his jacket, his pants, he looked into his bag. He was ashamed. Of course everything was still there.

He remembered recent debates. What they're saying about them is exactly what they said about us. Wandering,

stateless, aimless, dirty, a burden, a problem. How can we accuse anyone in the past if we're just standing by today?

Chilling images on the screen. Young blond toughs beating the darker-skinned, justified in the name of the nation, their elders egging them on.

Comfortably sitting in the metro car, he watched as one of the boys suddenly darted from his mother towards him. Then the doors closed. The boy burst into tears.

So this is what it's like.

Rome. Waiting in the long ticket line, backpack on, passport in hand, looking forward to Vienna.

"Shit, Gypsies," his travel companion suddenly whispered. "Put everything in your front pocket and swat the kids away if you have to."

"What are you talking about?"

"Just do it. They're vile, shameless little thieves."

"That's a little offensive."

They descended upon the queue like a swarm. Six women in multi-layered dresses, rag upon rag, working the line, half-heartedly sticking half-opened hands beneath a series of chins, not even waiting for answers. Dozens of little boys weaving into the line, swirling between people, legs, bags, groping with their little hands. Patrons in line swinging their arms, yelling, cursing in every language, clinging onto luggage, cameras, money, passports. He felt the punching and pinching on his body. Suddenly a flat piece of cardboard was jammed against his throat. He looked straight into the eyes of the woman holding it and saw her smirk. Feeling the grip on his passport loosen, he swung his arms, hitting only his companion. He could feel his hand empty.

Now he sat in a metro car going downtown in his own city. But it wouldn't have been my city if they'd kept the doors shut. We're doing just what was done to us. Let them all in, it's the only right thing to do. If only they'd done the same for us.

He was proud of the moral high ground, clung to it like a talisman

But back in Rome, he knocked the woman over and ran after the child who took his passport. Then, when he couldn't find that boy anymore, he grabbed another one just like him. They were all just like him. Even the women were like the little boy who stole what was his.

He slapped the boy twice before finally resisting the urge to do more. Such a small neck. He thrust the child to the ground. The child scurried off. Then, tears in his eyes, breathing heavily, heart racing, he turned on his shaky legs to walk back to his companion. But a police officer stood in front of him. He froze.

"He stole my passport," he offered as an excuse for the assault. "Passport Canadese," he added, as if that would make it more forgivable.

I'm glad a few got in so far, he now thought to himself. Though I thought most of them landed in Toronto. Her French was pretty good. Maybe that's why she came here. They could do alright. She seemed fairly articulate, clean, well-groomed, not like—wait a minute, that's not the point.

The Italian cop spoke only Italian.

"Tell him I'm really sorry, I shouldn't have smacked the kid, I lost it for a second, I was just so mad, I—"

"Relax," his companion said with a laugh. "He's not interested in what you did to that rat. He just wants to know if you lost anything else."

The next day he ran into the two women again. She didn't recognize him. She stuck out her hand. Knowing that just a little while ago, no cop would care about him either, he emptied his pocket, a poor substitute for citizenship.

Missed the panel discussions?

Shame on you!

TIMOTHY DUNN
LL.B. III

It is with great dismay and outright resentment [SERENITY NOW!] that I write this article concerning the events surrounding the recent panel discussions: Alternatives to a Traditional Legal Career on Thursday the 12th and Friday the 13th of February. The lack of student turnout was both embarrassing to the professionals for our entire faculty, and an insult to all the hard work that was done on the part of our dedicated Placement Office volunteers and Assistant Dean Robin Geller.

I direct my remarks to the members of the first and second year classes, and to third year National Programme people.

I don't consider the fact that first and second year students had their memos going on during this period of time to be an excuse, and here's why. First of all, if you think that the professionals had nothing as important to do as a memo during this period of time, let me

know what you've been smoking, (and where I can get some) because you are dead wrong. The Bay Street lawyers that came could have been billing at least \$300 an hour for the time they devoted to being here, plus the cost and inconvenience of travelling here. And for people as distinguished as David O'Brien, President of CP, I can't even begin to imagine what his time is worth. But they all gave up what they were doing to come here and meet people. All these people didn't agree to merely meet with students, they agreed to leave their place of business and come here! And the panels were a freakin' Ghost Town! It's inexcusable!

Don't give me any B.S. about "I'm not interested in becoming a lawyer, so why should I have gone." We had consultants, professional arbitrators and mediators, leaders in business, in-house counsel, politicians, public interest advocates, and government officials.

Second of all, there was a lot of hard work undertaken by the Placement Committee to get these people to come here. It reflects badly on them and it's not their fault. It's your fault! If I hear one peep out of anybody pissing their pants because they didn't get any interviews for jobs, or saying that on-campus recruitment sucks here... "Yes your honour, that's when I started hearing the voices telling me I had to..." What the hell do you want to hire a full-time placement officer for when you don't take advantage of the tremendous efforts to put you in touch with legal professionals that are currently happening. I know why; because none of these people are likely to come back here to meet McGill students in the future.

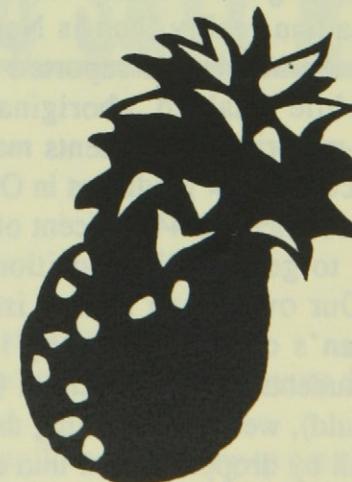
These people didn't come here to whistle Dixie, they came here to recruit law students! And I'd be surprised if they come back next time. They'd be

fools if they did! They should go to some other school where law students actually want to meet with them.

The only people I am letting off the hook are those that have a definite plan for when they get out of school. To everyone else: get your head out of the clouds and realize that these opportunities will only exist as long as we take advantage of them, and that your inaction is costing future students of this faculty.

I hope everybody did great on the memo they were working on, and gets into the top 15% of their class. If you don't, you'll have to bust your ass to find a job like most other schleps, and you blew a great chance to meet lawyers who wanted to meet prospects, not to mention jeopardizing the chances of future students and making our dedicated Placement Committee look bad in the process.

P.S. instead of voting yes to the referendum on hiring a placement officer, just send me the cash and I'll burn it to heat my house instead, we'll probably get more use out of it that way.



A Comment On Law-Student Diversity

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

Examination answers in the sciences are almost always objectively ascertainable. Contrast this with the humanities. Parents won't be able to help their children since their own education probably did not involve an exposure to the basics of the humanities and social sciences. Moreover, they often do not have the mastery of English or French to pass on to their children, which is required in order to function in this domain in Canada (at McGill Law, it's both English AND French which are required!). Pythagoras and Einstein are far more comprehensible to them than Socrates and Freud. How will they know whether teachers are being unfair when the assessment of work in the arts is far more subjective?

Thirdly, and most important of all, people from minority communities often feel intensely insecure about their job prospects, and quite rightly so. The Afro-Caribbean community in Canada has an average education level which is above the Canadian average, yet their household income is disproportionately low. The same is true for South Asians as of the 1985 census. We all know that the practising Bar is far slower to adjust to Canadian reality than is Nortel or Bayer. As Maclean's reported in the Fall, while disabled, aboriginal, and visible-minority law students make up 18 per cent of law graduates in Ontario, they accounted for 44 per cent of those unable to get articling positions last year. Our own Dean in that issue of Maclean's observed that by letting these students in to law school (which we should), we may be setting them up for a fall by dropping them into a practice which refuses to change. In a profession which is preoccupied with image and connections, where these

can provide an entree for a mediocre student, to the exclusion of more deserving candidates, what chances does a dark-skinned person with an unpronounceable name and no connections to high society have? Even if it is not true that image and connections are important in private legal practice, there is still a perception among people on the outside that this is the case, so who is going to volunteer their children as sacrificial lambs to test the hypothesis?

As far as the job market is concerned, another problem presents itself. The route to law school is usually through a faculty of Arts. So what happens if one isn't good enough to get into law school? The perception is that one is "stuck" with a BA. Contrast the job opportunities presented by this degree with those presented by a B.Eng. For people who are already conscious of their minority position, to combine the attendant concerns of job opportunities with the reality of meagre prospects with a BA is to take risks which many rational people would consider too great.

These are the interrelated factors which militate against visible-minority young people from contemplating law as a career. It seems to me that the problem is not so much the faculties of law as it is private firms. The legal academy is like a sanctuary compared to the world of private practice, where deviation from the norm is frowned upon. Even those non-white people who get hired tend to be people who are conventional in every way except for their skin colour. Thus, discrimination is often at the level of ideology and political views, as opposed to identity, in which case working-class white students might feel at as much a disadvantage. Diversity at law school is a valuable goal. To achieve it will require some time. Some factors of exclusion are simply a function of the immigrant reality, while others are within the power of lawyers to change. Diversity will be accelerated if minority communities see that they are welcome in the profession, not only in the academy.

La Revue québécoise de droit international

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la diffusion de la réflexion et de l'écriture pour susciter des débats ou pour éclaircir certaines questions. Nous formons donc une équipe extrêmement stimulante qui renchérit sans cesse sur ses intérêts. L'esprit d'équipe nous anime dans notre quête d'un but commun : la publication de la R.Q.D.I.

Et si vous n'êtes pas convaincus que la RQDI est une expérience enrichissante venez à la cérémonie de clôture du travail de l'équipe de 1997-98 coïncidant avec la publication des numéros 8(2) et 9. Vous y goûterez les variétés de sushis de Christine, écoutez les blagues de Bernard, savourerez les pensées du jour de Stéphanie (telles que *Nous vaincrons l'adversité* et *Il faut publier, c'est une obligation de résultat*) et admirerez les chorégraphies de Annick.

Amitiés,

A B C et BdeS

Si vous souhaitez soumettre votre candidature pour obtenir un poste de rédacteur/trice à la Revue québécoise de droit international, veuillez déposer: votre Curriculum Vitae